ing some problems because of stiff competition from local banks, sharp changes in the economic scenario and crash in property markets in USA.

The performance of the overseas branches of the Indian Banks is continuously monitored by the Reserve Bank of India. During the last few years steps have been taken to strengthen the system of operations of the overseas sector in the areas of personnel policy, prudential norms for credit exposures, reinforcing of internal and supervisory controls, introduction of system of portfolio inspections of international divisions in India of banks having overseas operations. Banks have also closed some of their branches which were considered non-viable.

Steps to ensure adequate supply of essential commodities

3483: SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had stated that Government will hold talks with the representatives of the industry to ensure adequate supply of essential commodities;

(b) whether any concrete steps have been taken by his Ministry after the meeting with the representatives of the industry; and

(c) if so, what are the details theroef ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (c) Talks have been held by the concerned Ministries with the representatives of industry to improve the supply situation and maintain prices at reasonable levels. Steps have been taken by the Government to arrange adequate supplies of essential commodities for distribution under the Public Distribution System. These include stepping up releases of rice, wheat, enhanced releases of sugar and edible oils for the festival season and arranging imports of edible oil to augment domestic supply.

Close coordination is being maintained with the railways to remove transport bottlenecks and to ensure timely supplies to all the regions in the country.

Transfer Policy in State Bank of Indore

3484. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE to pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that transfers policy is not being followed by the State Bank of Indore, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) what is the number of clerks/ cashiers, branchwise who are staying at one place for the last 5/10 years in the State Bank of Indore, Delhi branches;

(c) whether it is also a fact that transfers are not being effected even after their promotion;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor, and

(e) what are the instructions in this regard and how Government propose to deal with the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available/ feasible.

Tea Plantation in Orissa

3485. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area earmarked in Kalahandi district of Orissa for tea plantation;

(b) whether the land was acquired from tribal farmers for this purpose four years ago;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the delay in tea plantation in this area; and

(d) what steps have been taken to undertake tea plantation in this area at an early date ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Iron Ore Mines in Orissa

3486. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :